

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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EVAN RATCLIFF,

Plaintiff,

v.

C/O M. ROWLEY, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:14-cv-00087-MMD-VPC

ORDER

Plaintiff has submitted an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (dkt. no. 4). The Court finds that plaintiff is not able to pay an initial partial filing fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4). Plaintiff still must pay the filing fee in full through monthly installments. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2).

The Court has reviewed the complaint, and the Court will dismiss this action. When a “prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity,” the court must “identify cognizable claims or dismiss the complaint, or any portion of the complaint, if the complaint (1) is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (2) seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b). Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides for dismissal of a complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Allegations of a pro se complainant are held to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers. *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972) (per curiam).

1 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2), a pleading must  
2 contain a “short and plain statement of the claim showing that the  
3 pleader is entitled to relief.” . . . [T]he pleading standard Rule 8  
4 announces does not require “detailed factual allegations,” but it  
5 demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-unlawfully-  
harmed-me accusation. A pleading that offers “labels and  
conclusions” or “a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of  
action will not do.” Nor does a complaint suffice if it tenders “naked  
assertion[s]” devoid of “further factual enhancement.” . . .

6 [A] complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true,  
7 to “state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” A claim has  
8 facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows  
9 the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable  
10 for the misconduct alleged. The plausibility standard is not akin to a  
11 “probability requirement,” but it asks for more than a sheer possibility  
that a defendant has acted unlawfully. Where a complaint pleads  
facts that are “merely consistent with” a defendant’s liability, it “stops  
short of the line between possibility and plausibility of ‘entitlement to  
relief.’”

12 *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 677-78 (2009) (citations omitted).

13 At all relevant times, plaintiff was an inmate at the Ely State Prison. He was  
14 involved in an attack upon another inmate, and he has freely admitted that involvement.  
15 In Count 1, he alleges that defendant Rowley wrote a report on the incident stating that  
16 plaintiff gave the names of other inmates who were involved in the attack. Plaintiff  
17 further alleges that that statement in defendant Rowley’s report is untrue and that he  
18 never gave defendant Rowley the names of any other inmates. Plaintiff claims that that  
19 statement in the report has put him at risk of being attacked by other inmates.

20 A prison official’s deliberate indifference to an inmate’s safety can violate the  
21 Eighth Amendment. Deliberate indifference is subjective. The prison official cannot be  
22 held liable “unless the official knows of and disregards an excessive risk to inmate  
23 health or safety; the official must both be aware of facts from which the inference could  
24 be drawn that a substantial risk of harm exists, and he must also draw the inference.”  
25 *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 838 (1994).

26 Plaintiff has not, and cannot, satisfy the standard for deliberate indifference. First,  
27 documents that he has attached to his own complaint show that internal incident  
28 reports, such as the one that defendant Rowley wrote, are confidential and not to be

1 released to inmates. Plaintiff obtained a copy of the report only because he faced  
2 criminal charges for the attack. Plaintiff has not alleged any facts indicating that the  
3 report was released to other inmates. Consequently, plaintiff has not alleged plausibly  
4 that he is facing an excessive risk to his safety from other inmates. Second, plaintiff has  
5 not alleged that other inmates actually have retaliated against him. See *Morgan v.*  
6 *MacDonald*, 41 F.3d 1291, 1293-94 (9th Cir. 1994). Plaintiff has failed to state a claim in  
7 Count 1 upon which relief can be granted, and amendment of the complaint cannot cure  
8 this defect.

9 Counts 2 and 3 share the same defect. In both counts, plaintiff alleges that he  
10 filed prison grievances about the statement in defendant Rowley's incident report. In  
11 Count 2, plaintiff alleges that defendant Baker, the warden at Ely State Prison, did not  
12 investigate his allegations before denying a grievance. In count 3, plaintiff alleges that  
13 defendant Foster, a prison official, did not investigate his allegations before denying a  
14 grievance. Plaintiff has no constitutional right to an effective grievance procedure. *Mann*  
15 *v. Adams*, 855 F.2d 639, 640 (9th Cir. 1988) (order). Counts 2 and 3 fail to state claims  
16 upon which relief can be granted, and amendment of the complaint cannot cure this  
17 defect.

18 Plaintiff has submitted a motion for a status check (dkt. no. 5). This order makes  
19 the motion moot.

20 It is therefore ordered that plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (dkt.  
21 no. 4) is granted. Plaintiff shall not be required to pay an initial partial filing fee.  
22 However, even though this action is being dismissed, by commencing this action  
23 plaintiff incurred the obligation to pay the full filing fee pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
24 § 1915(b)(2).

25 It is further ordered that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2), the Nevada  
26 Department of Corrections shall pay to the Clerk of the United States District Court,  
27 District of Nevada, 20% of the preceding month's deposits to plaintiff's account (inmate  
28 #96345), in the months that the account exceeds \$10.00, until the full \$350 filing fee has

1 been paid for this action. The Clerk shall send a copy of this order to the finance division  
2 of the Clerk's Office. The Clerk shall also send a copy of this order to the attention of the  
3 Chief of Inmate Services for the Nevada Department of Corrections, P.O. Box 7011,  
4 Carson City, NV 89702.

5 It is further ordered that the motion for a status check (dkt. no. 5) is denied as  
6 moot.

7 It is further ordered that the Clerk shall file the complaint.

8 It is further ordered that this action is dismissed for failure to state a claim upon  
9 which relief can be granted. The Clerk of Court shall enter judgment accordingly.

10 It is further ordered that an appeal from the judgment in this action would not be  
11 taken in good faith.

12 DATED THIS 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miranda M. Du', is written over a horizontal line.

MIRANDA M. DU  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE